

Chairman Kilmer and Vice Chair Timmons

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. The Select Committee is doing important work helping Congress fulfill its Constitutional role as a co-equal branch of Government.

Article I of the Constitution gives Congress the primary responsibility of creating spending priorities for the nation. Passing the budget is one of, if not most, important functions of Congress. Yet our budget process is broken and inefficient and negatively impacting the functioning of Congress and the federal government. We are more than 28 trillion dollars in debt. We cannot allow this status quo to continue. Like previous Congresses we must work on reforming the budget and appropriations process.

That is why I support moving to a biennial budget. This simple sounding change will have a big impact on how Congress and the federal government operate. Biennial budgeting makes good fiscal sense, has bi-partisan support, and ensures Congress is faithfully fulfilling the duties granted under the Constitution. The change would give Congress more time to conduct effective oversight and ensure that taxpayers' money is being used in a responsible and efficient manner. The change would also help federal agencies be more efficient with their spending and give them certainty that is currently lacking.

Biennial budgeting is good policy and good politics. That is why it has bi-partisan support. I urge you to continue building support for this important government reform.

Thank you